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Reagan Spells Out Second-Term Agenda

(On December 6 HUMAN EVENTS
Editor Thomas S. Winter and Associ-
ate Editor Joseph Baldacchino inter-
viewed President Reagan in the Oval
Office.)

Q. What plans does the Administration have now to try to get some aid going back to the Contras?

A. Oh, we're going to try. I think that Congress — or that portion of it that's been blocking us — has been very irresponsible. The Contras are veterans of the revolution that put the Sandinistas in power. And it was a total revolutionary effort aimed at democracy.

You only have to look at the promises the Sandinistas made to the Organization of American States, none of which have been kept. And what we're supporting are the people of Nicaragua who have now been subjected to a totalitarian, Marxist-Leninist state.

Q. But is there any realistic chance that such aid can get through Congress?

A. We're going to do our best.

Q. Would you go to the people, go on television to make the case?

A. Yes.

Q. Since covert aid seems to bother a lot of people, including the likely new head of the Senate Intelligence Committee, Minnesota GOP Senator Dave Durenberger, one suggestion has been to recognize a government-in-exile which we could then aid overtly. Have you thought about that?

A. Well, this would give us something that we would have to look at very closely, because right now we can honestly say that what we're trying to do is simply modify the existing situation and return to the principles that all of the parties and elements opposed to Somoza, including the Sandinistas, were fighting for, according to what they said.

Now, it's been revealed that they didn't mean it when they said it. Recognition of a government-in-exile would probably present some problems — very definite problems for us.

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